



Maids Moreton C of E School

Small enough to care, large enough to inspire



Newsletter No 5. January 2024.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back, and a very happy and healthy New Year to you all. I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. We now look forward to the exciting things that the new term has to offer.

Class Trips

This term the Robins class will be visiting the Natural History Museum in Oxford as part of their topic on dinosaurs. Meanwhile, the Kestrels class will be visiting the Milton Keynes Mosque as part of their RE topic on Islam. Our Year 2 pupils have also been invited to a singing session run by the County Music Centre later this month. I will also be planning more visits to Maids Moreton Hall.

Phonics Screening Meeting.

On **Tuesday 9th January at 9.10am** I will be delivering an information sharing meeting for **Year 1 parents** to explain the Year 1 phonics Screening Check. This will also take place in the school hall. **Parents of any Year 2 pupils** who will be retaking the Year 1 Phonics Screening test in June 2024 are also invited to this meeting. The presentation will be shared on the school website for those unable to attend on the day.

Key Stage 1 SATS

Earlier this year, the Department for Education announced the end of statutory SATS testing for pupils at the end of Key Stage 1. [Year 2]. SATS tests remain in place for the end of Key Stage 2. [Year 6]. Optional tests will be provided for schools to use to support their overall assessment of children's achievement in Key Stage 1, based on the same specifications as the previous test materials. Schools are encouraged to use these materials as part of their normal classroom practice and assessment procedures. Unlike in Key Stage 2, SATS tests in Key Stage 1, were only ever used to provide one piece of evidence, to assess each child's overall achievement for their whole time in Year 2, alongside all their other class work and end of unit assessments. As a school, we will continue to use the optional tests for this same purpose.



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Emergency School Closure



As Winter is upon us, may I remind you that in the event of particularly severe weather please check the Buckinghamshire Council website or our own school's website about possible school closure. In the event of school closure we will text message each parent via Parentmail and use the same system to keep you informed of any updates. We therefore request that you check your mobile numbers are up-to-date on the Parentmail system and inform us of any changes. Thank you.



Information Forecasts

The teachers are currently preparing information forecasts for you, outlining the content of each curriculum area to be studied this term. These, together with our detailed knowledge organisers for each unit of work, are available to view via the Curriculum section of the school website.

Reading.

Over the Autumn term, we noticed a trend with fewer Key Stage 2 children eligible to enter the reading raffle. This was rather concerning. It is very important that children in Key Stage 2 continue to read regularly at home to a parent and to themselves. Whilst most children in Key Stage 2 can read fluently, the learning, enjoyment and comprehension skills that come from reading regularly are vital components to future success. Every child in Key Stage 2, should come home with a reading skills book, plus a library free choice book of the same colour band, from our new and well stocked library. Please record all reading in the reading diary, even if just with an initial and a date. Children who have read 4 times a week at home will be entered into the reading raffle. Many thanks for your support.

Parenting Support Programmes

Before we broke up for Christmas, we had a number of enquiries from individual parents, regarding challenges faced at home, such as supporting children with anxieties or addressing challenging behaviours.

The Buckinghamshire Council Family Support Service provide a wealth of in person and online-parenting programmes, courses, local groups, drop in centres and support, for children of all ages, including some free courses. From toddlers to teens they can give you advice, support and confidence to meet your child's needs and reduce anxiety, stress and arguments at home.

Their free programmes are:

- Little Talkers (for parents of 18 months to 3-year-olds)
- The Nurturing Programme (for parents of 3 to 11s)
- Talking Teens (for parents of 11 to 18s)

The topics covered in the Nurturing Programme for children of our age range includes:

- Ages and stages in children's development
- Communicating clearly: using I statements
- Family rules, rewards, penalties and discipline
- Feelings...and what we do with them
- Behaviour to ignore
- Helping children grow up and keeping them safe
- Calming Down

Amongst the chargeable courses, there is an online "Anxiety Course for Parents of Under 12 years" run by Dr Lucy Russell, Educational Psychologist which is suitable for parents of 7-12 year olds.

More details on all the support available can be found on this webpage.

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/parenting/>

Year 4 Cake Sale

Following the successful Year 5 cake sale, just before Christmas, the Year 4 cake sale will take place on Friday 9th February after school. If each parent could provide approximately 4 cakes, we should have sufficient for each child in school. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Memories



The build up to Christmas was such an exciting time for the children at Maids Moreton. They thoroughly enjoyed the whole Christmas experience and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff and the PTA for their hard work in making it such a magical occasion for our children.



Best Wishes, Keira Ainsworth, Head Teacher. 4th January 2024

